Letters to the editor

Renovate City Hall

Dear Editor:

The Pioneer Spirit that was everywhere apparent in Carbondale during Pioneer Days 1981 was truly exhilarating. The people who planned the week-long celebration, as well as the people who were responsible for carrying out those plans, are, to be sure, Twentieth-Century pioneers.

Like the pioneers who established the city of Carbondale in the early years of the nineteenth century, these twentieth-century pioneers are cognizant of the fact that when a small, but determined, group of concerned citizens works together that extraordinary civic accomplishments can be effected.

The fact that on August 29th an estimated 35,000 spectators lined the streets of Carbondale to witness the Pioneer Day Parade -- a celebration not only of Carbondale's respect for its past, but also of Carbondale's faith in itself and in its future -- would, without doubt, fill the hearts of Carbondale's founding fathers with pride.

The Pioneer Spirit that Carbondale's Pioneer Days 1981 a great success can, I believe, last (see "Pioneer Spirit Can It Last?, THE CARBONDALE NEWS, September 2, 1981, p. 4). The Pioneer Spirit is nothing more than respect for the past, coupled with faith in oneself and in the future. That respect and that faith are very recognizable, not only in people but also in cities.

That Carbondale once again has respect for its past and faith in itself and in its future, as it did when the anthracite industry was flourishing, is a fact that will probably result in a new company's moving into Carbondale: Glass Products, Inc., of New Jersey. If that deal is signed and sealed in November, as planned, other industrial prospects will be attracted to Carbondale and will invest in Carbondale and in its future. Not only will those industrial prospects who locate in Carbondale have a bright future, the city of Carbondale will have a bright future. In the long run, everyone benefits when people and cities have respect for their past, faith in themselves, and faith in their future.

That Carbondale, once again, has respect for its past, faith in itself, and faith in its future must, in the near term, be made known not only to all potential industrial prospects, but also to all visitors who come to the city of Carbondale.

One of the ways that we, as citizens of Carbondale, can proclaim to all potential industrial prospects and visitors that we have decided to invest in Carbondale -- past, present and future (and that they, therefore, should invest in Carbondale) - is to restore City Hall to its former beauty!

In your editorial, "Pioneer Spirit Can It Last?," the NEWS asks: "Wouldn't it be nice if a 'Restore City Hall' drive would be started to obtain funds to redo the outside (of City Hall)? ... Wouldn't it be nice if it (City Hall) was restored to its former beauty and was a credit to the city, instead of an eyesore?" The answer to both of those questions is YES.

As a citizen of Carbondale who has respect for Carbondale's past, faith in Carbondale, and faith in Carbondale's future, I am volunteering to serve on a Committee to Restore City Hall, a committee whose purpose it will be to obtain the necessary funds to restore City Hall in Carbondale to its former beauty.

As a citizen of Carbondale who has respect for Carbondale's past, faith in Carbondale, and faith in Carbondale's future, I am, at the same time, enclosing a check, payable to the "Restore City Hall in Carbondale" fund, for $100.

Sincerely,

S. Robert Powell